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AUTHOR Haynes, Richard M.; Chalker, Donald M.
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ABSTRACT

Many school systems across the country promise a world-class education for their students. This book defines what a world-class elementary school is and provides guidance for those wishing to lead their schools to meet the standards. Chapter 1 introduces the definition of world-class schools and identifies 10 nations that represent the finest education systems in the world: Canada, France, Germany, Great Britain, New Zealand, Taiwan, Israel, Japan, South Korea, and the United States. Chapter 2 provides an overview of the American elementary school and its historical and philosophical evolution. The following six chapters present elements of world-class education: curriculum and instruction, teaching, governance, assessment, students, and parents and communities. Each of the six chapters contains an abstract, a discussion of the topic's global perspective, and an agenda for developing a world-class elementary school. Chapters 9 and 10 describe characteristics of elementary schools in New Zealand and Japan. The final chapter provides an overview of what world-class elementary schools could look like in the United States, including suggestions for staff development and planning, and a checklist for planning an agenda for action. Contains an index, chapter references, 16 tables, and 11 figures. (LMI)

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